



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 9 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
9 MARCH 1967

1. Vietnam

Some unusually good movie and still films have been acquired as an unexpected dividend from Operation JUNCTION CITY. The best of these pictures show General Nguyen Chi Thanh--a member of Ho Chi Minh's Politburo and Hanoi's number one man in the South--and two other North Vietnamese generals inspecting Viet Cong installations in South Vietnam.

This is by far the most publicly exploitable evidence yet that these people are in fact operating inside the South. The Saigon embassy is planning to make full use of the opportunity.

2. Laos -  
Soviet Union

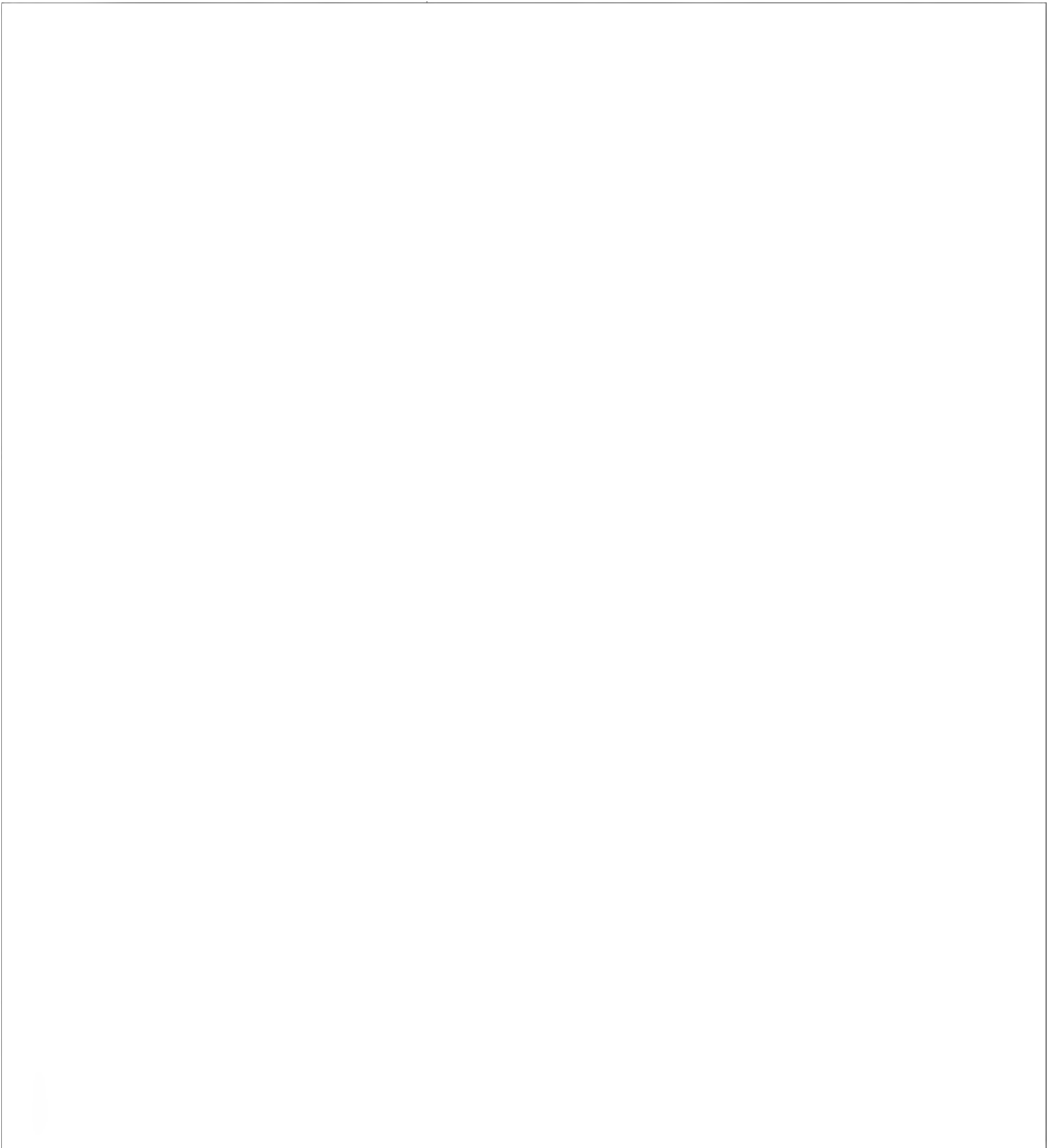
Prime Minister Souvanna has told Ambassador Sullivan the Soviets have not yet submitted a promised formal request for blanket permission to overfly Laos en route to Hanoi. He said that when they do, he will limit them to night flights along a northern route, which would rule out chance encounters with US aircraft.

There has been only one overflight since the Russians reopened the issue early last month.

3. Indonesia

The army has smashed an armed band of pro-Sukarnoites in Central Java, killing its leader--a well-known mystic--and as many as 80 of his followers. The action was carried out on 5 March after the mystic had ignored earlier warnings to knock off his pro-Sukarno agitation. It should serve as an object lesson to other pro-Sukarno groups at a time when Congress is trying to figure out what further measures, if any, to take against the Bung.

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## 4. Communist China

Trade with the imperialists is on again.

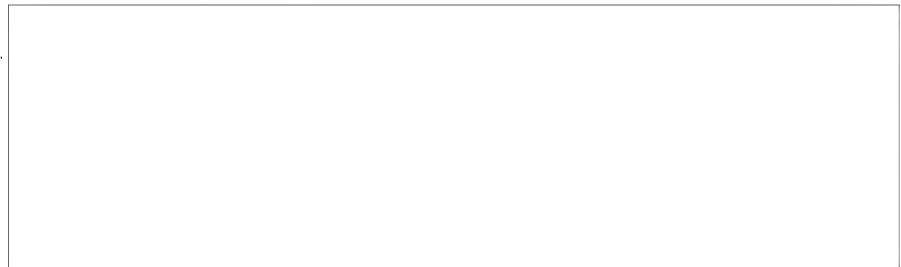
[redacted] the Chinese have reopened the long sidetracked talks with a West European consortium for a \$150 million steel rolling mill. A Danish trade exhibition opening in Peking on 1 March drew some high-ranking Chinese officials, and the Communists are saying that a bigger and better Canton trade fair will be held on schedule this spring.

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On the other hand the Chinese are showing no interest in reviving trade with the Soviets. Each side continues to make such business as it does with the other as unpleasant as possible.

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## 5. Soviet Union



## 6. Panama

President Robles has a real problem on his hands. Two powerful families in his administration are feuding; their weapons are the family newspapers. Some of the mud flying around is sticking on Foreign Minister Eleta, who heads one of the papers.

The effect on the operations of the government is bad enough, but what makes matters worse is that the bad press Eleta is getting may rub off on the canal treaty he is negotiating with the US. Robles had been counting on the newspapers of both families to help sell the treaty to the Panamanian public.

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## 7. Venezuela

President Leoni went through the roof when he heard that a Venezuelan Communist in Havana had publicly claimed credit for the recent murder of his foreign minister's brother.

The usually unruffled Leoni is said to be mulling over a letter to President Johnson and a request that the Punta del Este summit meeting next month take up the problem of Cuban intervention. He is also considering pressure on Mexico to break relations with Castro or at least to crack down harder on travel to Cuba.

## 8. Nigeria

Verbal jousting between Supreme Commander Gowon and Eastern governor Ojukwu is threatening to spill over into military action.

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Ojukwu

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seems to be gearing his people up for an early attack by federal forces. He is also said to be dickering with some tribal leaders from the Western region who are getting fed up with the presence of Gowon's mainly northern army.

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